

AGENDA ITEM V

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting of August 28, 2003, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed Doctor of Audiology program (CIP Code 51.0202) at Louisiana Tech University. The implementation date of this program shall be set once the University has engaged the services of two new Ph.D. in Audiology faculty to help staff the program. Beginning June 1, 2004, the University shall submit annual reports to the Commissioner of Higher Education until all consultant recommendations have been fulfilled.

Further, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Regents grant continued maintenance of the M.A. in Speech Pathology-Audiology (Audiology Option) program (CIP Code 51.0204) at Louisiana Tech University through AY 2005-2006, at which time the need for this program shall be reconsidered.

Subsequently, at its meeting of May 27, 2004, the Board of Regents acted as follows:

The Board of Regents receives the AY 2004 Progress Report from Louisiana Tech University Relative to Hiring of New Faculty to Staff the Doctor of Audiology program. As a result of this report, the University is hereby authorized to begin offering this program starting Fall Quarter, 2004. The due date for receipt of a progress report on program implementation is hereby extended to January 15, 2005.

STAFF COMMENTS

Louisiana Tech University submitted its first progress report relative to implementation of the Doctor of Audiology program on December 13, 2004. This report addresses many continuing concerns of the program.

1. Faculty Numbers and Research Qualifications

As previously report, the University has hired two new Ph.D. faculty for the program, both at the Associate Professor-level. Both possess considerable past research experience as evidenced by many publications in refereed professional publications and membership in appropriate professional bodies. Their activities

are expected to continue in the future and their presence on the faculty is expected to bolster research/professional efforts of pre-existing Audiology faculty.

2. Student Recruitment

Eleven students have been admitted to the program; six of these were current M.A. students at the University.

3. University Financial Support

a. Graduate Assistantships

Four, \$8K doctoral assistantships were awarded in AY 2004-2005; four more will be added in AY 2005-2006.

b. Equipment

\$50K of new equipment has been purchased; another \$50K has been pledged for AY 2005-2006.

c. Library Resources

\$20K of new library resources have been purchased; another \$7.5K has been pledged for AY 2005-2006.

d. Clinical Supplies/Software

\$22.5K of new clinical supplies/software has been pledged for AYs 2004-2006.

e. Clerical Support

A new Secretary I has been hired for the Audiology Clinic.

STAFF SUMMARY

The University report addresses many outstanding concerns, but not all of these responses are complete. The staff is concerned that students attracted to the program so far do not represent the full scope of potential applicants. Given that this is a doctoral program, it is imperative that the University attract students from outside itself to ensure that the high-quality educational community is broad. A wider range of student backgrounds must be present in future years. Student financial support, while better, is still limited. As agreed to by the University, the number of assistantships must increase by 4/year until AY 2007-2008. This commitment was not made clear in its report.

Other consultant concerns were not directly addressed in the University's progress report. While the University agreed to curricular broadening and flexibility, evidence of such activity was not provided. Also, there was no specific response to the consultants' call for expanded opportunities for development of pre-existing faculty.

Given the assessment above, another progress report should be required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the AY 2004-2005 Progress Report from Louisiana Tech University Relative to Implementation of the Doctor of Audiology Program. A subsequent progress report which addresses remaining staff/consultant concerns shall be sent to the Commissioner of Higher Education by January 15, 2006.